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ABSTRACT

Information on the migration patterns of Connecticut freshmen in fall 1979 and comparative data for fall 1981 are examined. Findings include the following: Connecticut ranked fourth among the states as a net exporter of freshmen; in 1979, 8,474 more freshmen left Connecticut to attend out-of-state institutions than migrated into Connecticut for higher education; of the 39,857 Connecticut residents who were freshmen in fall 1979, 33.6 percent enrolled in out-of-state institutions; of the freshmen migrating to out-of-state institutions in fall 1979, 77.6 percent were enrolled in independent institutions; Massachusetts enrolled the most Connecticut freshmen; of those out-of-state freshmen migrating into Connecticut in fall 1979, 86.2 percent were enrolled in independent institutions; the largest number of in-migrating students came from New York; the proportion of Connecticut high school graduates continuing immediately into higher education has increased from 55.4 percent in 1977 to 59.3 percent in 1981; high school graduates increasingly choose to attend out-of-state institutions; enrollment of out-of-state freshmen in Connecticut institutions increased 13.4 percent from 1979 to 1981; and Connecticut public institutions enrolled 517 more Connecticut high school graduates in fall 1981 than 1 year earlier, while all other types of higher education institutions enrolled slightly fewer than in fall 1980. The data do not include foreign students or students originating in U.S. territories. Brief comments are made regarding the relation of the high migration rate to Connecticut's economy, the quality of higher education available within the state, and the net cost of education. (SW)

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Research Report R-4-82

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FRESHMAN MIGRATION INTO AND OUT OF CONNECTICUT

This report presents detailed information on the migration patterns of Connecticut freshmen in fall 1979.[1] In addition, comparative data are provided on the migration of freshmen into Connecticut in fall 1979 and fall 1981. Migration patterns of students at other levels are dealt with in a second report (R-5-82).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Connecticut ranks fourth among the states as a net exporter of freshmen. In 1979, 8,474 more freshmen left Connecticut to attend out-of-state institutions than migrated into Connecticut for higher education (page 2).

  Of the 39,857 Connecticut residents who were freshmen in fall 1979, 33.6 percent enrolled in out-of-state institutions (page 3).

  Of those freshmen migrating to out-of-state institutions in fall 1979, 77.6 percent were enrolled in independent institutions (page 6). Massachusetts enrolled the most Connecticut freshmen (page 5).

  Of those out-of-state freshmen migrating into Connecticut in fall 1979, 86.2 percent were enrolled in independent institutions (page 9). The largest number of in-migrating students came from New York (page 8).

  The proportion of Connecticut high school graduates continuing immediately into higher education has increased from 55.4 percent in 1977 to 59.3 percent in 1981 (page 3).

  High school graduates increasingly choose to attend out-of-state institutions (45.1% in 1977, compared to 49.5% in 1981, page 3). However, this trend is not unique to Connecticut. Enrollment of out-of-state freshmen in Connecticut institutions increased 13.4 percent (+657) from 1979 to 1981 (page 8).

- Connecticut public institutions enrolled 517 more Connecticut high school graduates in fall 1981 than one year earlier, while all other types of institutions of higher education enrolled slightly fewer than in fall 1980 (page 4).

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[1] Data presented in this report do not include foreign students or students originating in U.S. territories. The United States Coast Guard Academy also is excluded from this analysis.

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I. OVERVIEW

According to data from the fall 1979 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Residence and Migration Survey, tabulated by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS),[2] Connecticut exported 8,474 more freshmen than it imported that year. Table 1 ranks the 50 states by net migration of freshmen. While these data are not directly comparable to past reports (earlier surveys asked for all students, not just first-time students)[3] they do continue an historical trend that goes back at least as far as 1958.[4] In 1979, Connecticut ranked fourth in terms of the net out-migration of freshmen students.

TABLE 1

NET MIGRATION OF FRESHMEN RANKED BY STATE
FALL 1979

EXPORTING STATES			IMPORTING STATES		
Rank	State	Net Migration	Rank	State	Net Migration
1	New Jersey	-25,217	1	North Carolina	6,345
2	New York	-15,243	2	Massachusetts	6,219
3	Illinois	-13,451	3	Tennessee	4,855
4	Connecticut	- 8,474	4	Texas	4,671
5	Maryland	- 5,082	5	Arizona	4,579
6	Ohio	- 1,918	6	California	4,527
7	Minnesota	- 1,880	7	District of Columbia	4,132
8	New Mexico	- 1,432	8	Alabama	4,125
9	Nevada	- 1,391	9	Indiana	4,096
10	Michigan	- 1,336	10	Utah	3,951
11	Alaska	- 1,24[illegible]	11	Rhode Island	2,971
12	Hawaii	- 1,203	12	Kansas	2,597
13	Georgia	- 900	13	West Virginia	2,588
14	Montana	- 565	14	Vermont	2,236
15	Wyoming	- 197	15	Missouri	2,212
16	Oklahoma	- 66	16	South Carolina	2,201
17	Florida	- 38	17	New Hampshire	2,174
			18	Wisconsin	1,840
			19	Idaho	1,596
			20	Colorado	1,437
			21	Oregon	1,341
			22	Iowa	1,336
			23	Delaware	1,109
			24	Mississippi	1,015
			25	Kentucky	997
			26	Virginia	845
			27.5	Louisiana	580
			27.5	South Dakota	580
			29	Arkansas	481
			30	North Carolina	442
			31	Pennsylvania	410
			32	Nebraska	386
			33	Washington	255
			34	Maine	245

SOURCE: NCES "Residence and Migration of College Students" 1979. Data compiled by NCHEMS, Boulder, Colorado, 1981.

[2]Out-migration data for fall 1981 have not yet been published by NCES. BHE does not collect these data directly from other states.

[3]The proportion of freshmen going out of state is likely to be a good proxy for the proportion of all undergraduate students migrating out of state.

[4]American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers. Home State and Migration of American College Students, 1979.

II. OUT-MIGRATION OF FRESHMEN

A total of 39,857 Connecticut residents were freshmen in fall 1979, including both full-time and part-time enrollees. Of these, 33.6 percent (13,374) enrolled out of state. When only full-time freshmen are considered, 44.6 percent of Connecticut's residents who were freshmen in fall 1979 enrolled in out-of-state institutions. The State Department of Education's "High School Graduate Follow-Up Survey" reported an out-migration rate of 49.4 percent for June 1979 graduates who went on for higher education in fall 1979 (Table 2). While this is somewhat higher than the proportion reported here, the latter rate is restricted to new high school graduates. The number of residents enrolling within state as full-time freshmen is likely to be bolstered by older enrollees, who may be more likely to enroll in state than out of state. The two rates are consistent.[5]

While the number of high school graduates is declining, the proportion continuing on to higher education is increasing (Table 2). The proportion of high school graduates going on immediately to higher education has risen from 55.4 percent in 1977 to 59.3 percent in 1981. On the other hand, 50.5 percent of these students went out of state in 1980, compared to 45.1 percent in 1977. This proportion dropped slightly in 1981 to 49.5 percent. It is the out-of-state institutions that are benefiting from the increasing participation rate of high school graduates, although the trend reversed in 1981. In that year, Connecticut's public institutions enrolled 517 more freshmen than in fall 1980 (Figure 1).

TABLE 2

FALL ACTIVITIES OF JUNE CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 1977 TO 1981

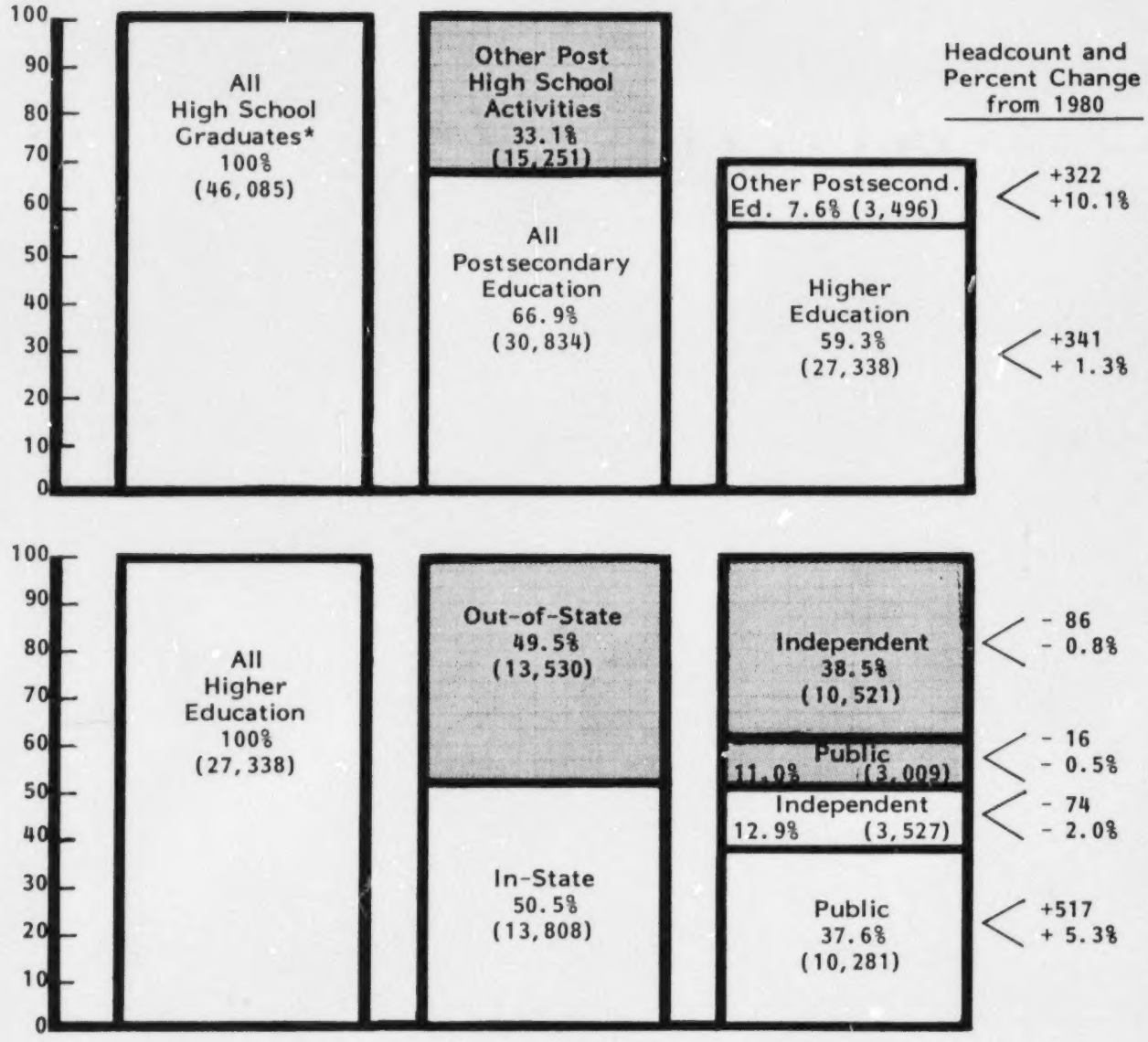
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Continuing Into Higher Education					
Number	25,736	26,274	27,499	26,997	27,338
Percent of all graduates	55.4%	56.5%	58.2%	59.8%	59.3%
Continuing In State					
Number	14,126	13,709	13,900	13,365	13,808
Percent of total	54.9%	52.2%	50.6%	49.5%	50.5%
Continuing Out of State					
Number	11,610	12,565	13,599	13,632	13,530
Percent of total	45.1%	47.8%	49.4%	50.5%	49.5%

SOURCE: SDE High School Graduate Follow-Up Surveys, Annual.

[5]The Connecticut State Department of Education's "High School Graduate Follow-Up Survey" (July 1980) reported 13,599 June 1979 high school graduates enrolling out of state in fall 1979. If it is assumed that all freshmen enrolling out of state do so directly upon graduation from high school, then the SDE survey over-estimates actual out-migration by 1.7 percent (225 students). However, this discrepancy is not large and the "High School Graduate Follow-Up Survey" can be considered a valid representation of the higher education activities of Connecticut high school graduates.

FIGURE 1

FALL 1981 ACTIVITIES OF JUNE 1981 CONNECTICUT
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



*Excludes 2,417 graduates of the Regional Vocational-Technical Schools 474 of whom continued with postsecondary education.
Source: State Department of Education, preliminary data, August 1982.

A study completed in 1980[6] examined enrollment choices of accepted applicants to several Connecticut public four-year institutions. The results suggested that factors relating to students' decisions to enroll out of state included perceptions of institutional prestige, socio-economic variables, and other external influences. The increased availability of federal financial aid and loans is likely to have contributed to the increased propensity of high school graduates to enroll out of state.

The Connecticut State Scholarship Program does not have a major influence on migration patterns. In fall 1981, half (418) of all recipients migrated into other states. If all these students had chosen to remain in state, the out-migration rate of high school graduates in fall 1981 would have been 48.0 percent instead of 49.5 percent, a change of only 1.5 percent.

Where Connecticut Freshmen Migrate:

While Connecticut freshmen were enrolled in every state and the U.S. territories, 47.3 percent were enrolled in New England states and 75.8 percent in the northeastern states in fall 1979.[7] Massachusetts enrolled the largest number (3,575), followed by New York (2,268) and Rhode Island (1,121).

Table 3 presents the top 10 importing states of Connecticut freshmen in fall 1979, the last year for which data are available.

TABLE 3

STATES ENROLLING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF OUT-MIGRATING CONNECTICUT FRESHMEN, FALL 1979

State	Number of Connecticut Freshmen	Percentage of Out-Migrating Freshmen
Massachusetts	3,575	26.7%
New York	2,268	17.0%
Rhode Island	1,121	8.4%
Pennsylvania	888	6.6%
New Hampshire	741	5.5%
Vermont	528	3.9%
Florida	438	3.3%
Ohio	383	2.9%
Maine	359	2.7%
Virginia	311	2.3%
Total, Top 10 Importing States	10,612	79.3%
Balance, All Other States	2,762	20.7%
Total	13,374	100.0%

[6]Frankel, Doreen. "An Analysis of Factors affecting Migration of Freshmen at Selected Public Institutions of Higher Education in Connecticut." Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, the University of Connecticut, 1980.

[7]The northeastern states are defined as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C.

Of those Connecticut freshmen migrating to other states, 77.6 percent (10,383) enrolled in independent institutions. The 10 independent institutions receiving the greatest number of Connecticut freshmen are shown in Table 4. These 10 institutions account for 19.4 percent of all Connecticut freshmen attending out-of-state independent institutions. They are all located in Massachusetts, Rhode Island or New York.

TABLE 4

INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS ENROLLING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF OUT-MIGRATING CONNECTICUT FRESHMEN, FALL 1979

Institution	State	Number of Connecticut Freshmen
Northeastern University	Massachusetts	342
Boston University	Massachusetts	266
Boston College	Massachusetts	249
Bryant College of Business Administration	Rhode Island	199
Roger Williams College	Rhode Island	191
Syracuse University	New York	184
Johnson and Wales College	Rhode Island	182
Bay Path Junior College	Massachusetts	142
Providence College	Rhode Island	141
Ithaca College	New York	119
Total, Top 10 Importing Independent Institutions		2,015
Balance, All Other Importing Independent Institutions		8,368
Total, Importing Independent Institutions		10,383

A total of 2,991, or 22.4 percent, of out-migrating Connecticut freshmen attended public institutions of higher education in fall 1979. The top 10 institutions in this sector (Table 5) drew 31.2 percent of these freshmen. Each of the New England states appears once within the top five ranking institutions. The only New England state university not appearing among the top 10 institutions in the public sector is the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. It ranked thirteenth with 37 Connecticut freshmen attending in fall 1979.

TABLE 5

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ENROLLING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF OUT-MIGRATING CONNECTICUT FRESHMEN, FALL 1979

Institution	State	Number of Connecticut Freshmen
University of Rhode Island	Rhode Island	167
University of Vermont	Vermont	163
Keene State College	New Hampshire	129
Springfield Technical College	Massachusetts	107
University of Maine at Orono	Maine	86
University of New Hampshire	New Hampshire	85
University of Arizona	Arizona	53
University of Colorado at Boulder	Colorado	50
Plymouth State College	New Hampshire	50
Purdue University	Indiana	42
Total, Top 10 Importing Public Institutions		932
Balance, All Other Importing Public Institutions		2,059
Total, Importing Public Institutions		2,991

It is interesting to note that while the reasons given for enrolling out of state included institutional prestige (Frankel, 1980), only one of the top 10 independent institutions listed in Table 4 falls into the Carnegie classifications of Liberal Arts Colleges I or Research Universities I--institutions that are typically thought of as the most prestigious.[8] Only three of the top 10 public institutions (Table 5) fall into either of these two classifications. It appears that Connecticut students equate independent status with institutional prestige.

III. IN-MIGRATION OF FRESHMEN

While fall 1981 data are not yet available on the out-migration of Connecticut residents, they are available on migration into Connecticut. In fall 1981, 5,557 in-migrating students registered as freshmen in Connecticut institutions, compared to 4,900 in fall 1979, an increase of 13.4 percent (Table 6). The increase in out-migration rates seen in Connecticut's high school graduates (Table 2) appears

[8]Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. A Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Berkeley, California, 1976. To be classified as a Research University I, an institution must be among the top 50 universities in terms of federal financial support of academic science. Liberal Arts Colleges I are those colleges which scored 5 or above on Astin's selectivity index or they are included among the leading baccalaureate-granting institutions in terms of numbers of their graduates receiving Ph.D.s.

present also in the enrollment behavior of freshmen from other states. The trend in out-migration of Connecticut residents is not unique to this state. Table 6 also shows the origin states of in-migrating freshmen. New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts combined consistently supply the largest numbers of in-migrating freshmen (66.7% in fall 1979; 68.1% in fall 1981). In general, freshmen tend to migrate to and from proximate states.

TABLE 6

ORIGIN STATES OF IN-MIGRATING FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN CONNECTICUT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FALL 1979			FALL 1981		
Origin State	Number of In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent of In-Migrating Freshmen	Origin State	Number of In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent of In-Migrating Freshmen
New York	1,496	30.5%	New York	1,765	31.8%
Massachusetts	980	20.0%	New Jersey	1,038	18.7%
New Jersey	791	16.1%	Massachusetts	979	17.6%
Pennsylvania	251	5.1%	Pennsylvania	278	5.0%
Rhode Island	187	3.8%	Rhode Island	199	3.6%
California	152	3.1%	California	182	3.3%
Maryland	120	2.5%	Maryland	136	2.4%
Illinois	88	1.8%	Illinois	83	1.5%
Ohio	76	1.6%	New Hampshire	83	1.5%
Maine	64	1.3%	Ohio	79	1.4%
Total, Top 10 Origin States	4,205	85.8%	Total, Top 10 Origin States	4,822	86.8%
Balance of Other States	695	14.2%	Balance of Other States	735	13.2%
Total, All Origin States	4,900	100.0%	Total, All Origin States	5,557	100.0%

In Table 7, net migration of freshmen between Connecticut and selected states is presented. Only New Jersey sends more freshmen than it receives from this state.

TABLE 7

NET MIGRATION OF FRESHMEN INTO AND OUT OF CONNECTICUT, SELECTED STATES, FALL 1979

State	In-Migration of State Residents to Connecticut	Out-Migration of Connecticut Residents to Other States	Balance for Connecticut
New York	1,553	2,268	- 715
Massachusetts	1,036	3,575	-2,539
New Jersey	805	192	+ 613
Pennsylvania	265	888	- 623
Rhode Island	189	1,121	- 932
New Hampshire	30	741	- 711

Table 8 breaks down enrollment of in-migrating freshmen by type of institution for fall 1979 and fall 1981. The public sector enrolled 13.8 percent of these students in fall 1979 compared to 14.2 percent in 1981. Freshmen enrollment in the public sector increased 16.4 percent (+111) between 1979 and 1981. Growth is most noticeable at the University of Connecticut where there were 102 more out-of-state freshmen in fall 1981 than two year earlier, a change of 41.3 percent. However, out-of-state students continue to be only a small proportion of all undergraduates at the University of Connecticut (7% in fall 1981, see Table 6, page 5, BHE Research Report R-5-82). In the independent sector, all types of institutions were able to attract more out-of-state freshmen in 1981 than two years earlier. Enrollment in the independent sector increased by 12.9 percent (+546). Nearly all in-migrating freshmen enroll on a full-time basis.

TABLE 8

ENROLLMENT OF IN-MIGRATING FRESHMEN BY SECTOR AND INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

Type of Institution	FALL 1979			FALL 1981		
	In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent of In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent Enrolling Full-Time	In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent of In-Migrating Freshmen	Percent Enrolling Full-Time
Public Institutions						
University of Connecticut	247	5.0%	100.0%	349	6.3%	100.0%
State Colleges	340	6.9%	97.6%	340	6.1%	94.1%
Regional Community Colleges	62	1.3%	43.5%	77	1.4%	48.1%
State Technical Colleges	27	0.6%	100.0%	21	0.4%	90.5%
Total, Public	676	13.8%	93.6%	787	14.2%	92.1%
Independent Institutions						
Four-Year National	2,185	44.6%	99.8%	2,308	41.5%	99.8%
Four-Year Regional	1,919	39.2%	95.4%	2,299	41.4%	97.0%
Two-Year	120	2.4%	100.0%	163	2.9%	100.0%
Total, Independent	4,224	86.2%	97.8%	4,770	85.8%	98.5%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	4,900	100.0%	97.2%	5,557	100.0%	97.6%

[9]A four-year independent institution is defined as a "national" institution if more than 65 percent of the full-time undergraduates are from out of state and total enrollment exceeds 300 students., i.e., Connecticut College, Trinity College, Wesleyan University, and Yale University. The remaining four-year independent institutions are defined as "regional" institutions.

Table 9 shows the institutions in Connecticut that attract the most out-of-state freshmen. The University of Connecticut enrolled almost half (349) of all freshmen migrating into the public sector in fall 1981. In that same year in the independent sector, the largest number of out-of-state freshmen again enrolled at Yale University (1,102), followed by the University of Hartford (872). The University of Bridgeport increased its recruitment of out-of-state freshmen considerably, from 316 in 1979 (not in top five) to 472 by fall 1981.

TABLE 9

INSTITUTIONS ENROLLING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF IN-MIGRATING FRESHMEN, BY SECTOR

FALL 1979

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS		INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS	
Institution	Number	Institution	Number
University of Connecticut	247	Yale University	1,062
Southern Connecticut State College	176	University of Hartford	745
Central Connecticut State College	87	Wesleyan University	499
Western Connecticut State College	52	Connecticut College	320
Eastern Connecticut State College	25	Fairfield University	357
Total, Top Five	587	Total, Top Five	2,983
Balance, All Other	89	Balance, All Other	1,241
TOTAL	676	TOTAL	4,224

FALL 1981

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS		INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS	
Institution	Number	Institution	Number
University of Connecticut	349	Yale University	1,102
Southern Connecticut State College	142	University of Hartford	872
Western Connecticut State College	93	Wesleyan University	563
Central Connecticut State College	81	University of Bridgeport	472
Eastern Connecticut State College	24	Fairfield University	436
Total, Top Five	689	Total, Top Five	3,445
Balance, All Other	98	Balance, All Other	1,325
TOTAL	787	TOTAL	4,770

IV. COMMENTARY

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) began collecting data on the residence and migration of college students in 1958. The first survey showed Connecticut to be a net exporter of students, ranking fourth behind New Jersey, New York and Illinois. The surveys have been repeated in 1963, 1975, 1979 and 1981. While data have yet to be compiled from the 1981 survey, Connecticut continued to rank fourth as an exporting state in each of the earlier surveys. The other three states also retained their historical positions as major net exporters of students. Migration patterns appear to be extremely stable, despite enormous changes in the structure of higher education since 1958.

The relationship of this high migration rate to Connecticut's economy is difficult to assess. The migration behavior of college graduates has not been studied on a statewide or, more appropriately, a national basis. If out-of-state college graduates tend to return to their home state for employment, then Connecticut actually would be benefiting from its high migration rate. Connecticut would reap the rewards of an educated citizenry without bearing the costs of their college education. If, on the other hand, out-of-state graduates do not return to Connecticut, then Connecticut may be losing permanently a talented portion of its high school graduate population.

It is sometimes suggested that the high migration rates of Connecticut students reflects poorly on the quality of higher education available within the state. However, examination of Table 1 (page 2) shows that a number of states with highly regarded systems of higher education also have substantial net out-migration. A more likely explanation for Connecticut's high migration rate is that Connecticut residents historically have accepted the premise that higher education is likely to mean private higher education. Once that premise is accepted, then choices about which institutions to attend are not limited by state boundaries. The geographic proximity of institutions in adjacent states makes them as attractive as those within state.

The net cost of education is likely to modify Connecticut's historically high migration rates. The growth in the availability of federal financial aid in the 1970s allowed families to continue to be able to choose independent institutions despite rapidly rising tuition. In 1981, federal aid was threatened. Although the substantial decreases in aid proposed did not materialize in the FY 82 budget, this threat appears to have influenced the choices of Connecticut high school graduates continuing on to higher education. The number choosing Connecticut's public institutions in fall 1981 rose by 517, while those choosing other institutions dropped by 176. This change in 1981 enrollment patterns may be an indicator of subsequent changes in enrollment choices if student financial aid erodes.